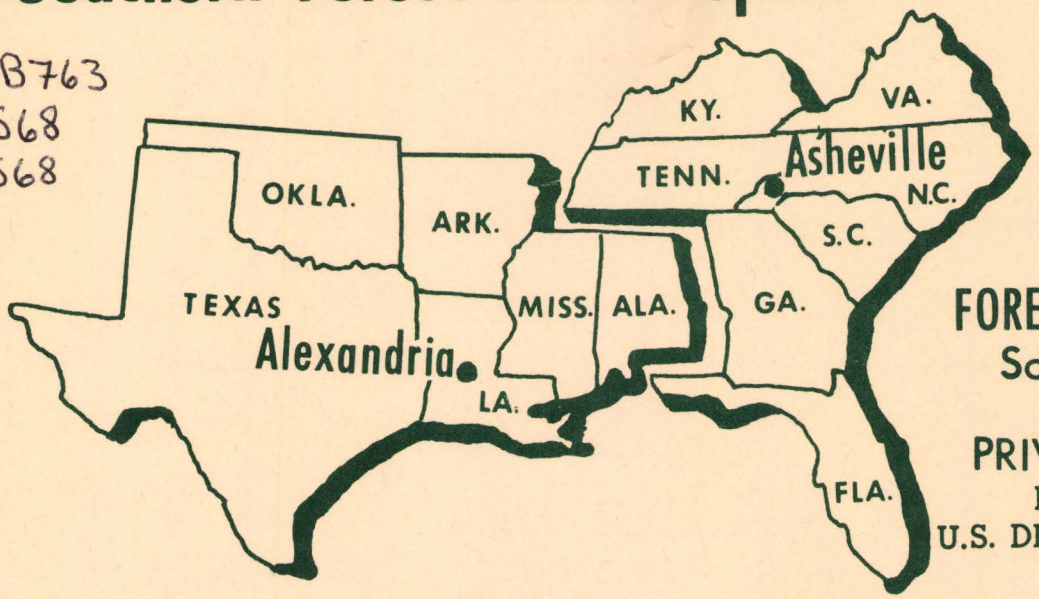
Southern Forest Pest Reporter

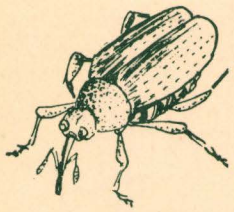
SB763
.S68
S68



DIVISION OF
FOREST PEST CONTROL
Southeastern Area
STATE AND
PRIVATE FORESTRY
FOREST SERVICE
U.S. DEPT OF AGRICULTURE

FIELD OFFICES
Asheville, N.C.-Alexandria, La.

Number 2 | 50-7th ST. N.E. ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323 | June 1968



SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

... Southern Pine Beetle infestations are continuing in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. While seasonal increases can be expected in most areas, populations have already increased on the Bankhead National Forest in Alabama and on private holdings in East Texas. An effective salvage program in a four county area of northeastern Georgia has reduced southern pine beetle infestations in the area.

... A severe hail storm near Camden, Arkansas, covering approximately 180,000 acres, created conditions favorable to insect buildup. Surveillance of the area is continuing.

... An early season survey conducted on the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas, showed comandra blister rust to be present on all Districts examined. Nineteen percent of randomly selected, direct seeded, or planted areas were infected. An extension of the known range in eastern Tennessee was also discovered. Infection of 25-60 percent was noted in 6-year old loblolly plantations.

... The three offices of the Division of Forest Pest Control have been consolidated into two with locations at Asheville, North Carolina and Alexandria, Louisiana, effective July 1, 1968. Area covered by each office is indicated on the inside of back cover of this issue.

LIBRARY FILE COPY

STATUS OF FOREST INSECTS

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE, Dendroctonus frontalis Zimm.

ALABAMA

A survey of the Bankhead National Forest in March by the Division of Forest Pest Control showed that approximately 51.34 infested trees per M acres of host type were present on the Forest. Spots ranged in size from a single tree to eight acres. Salvage of infested trees supplemented by chemical control as needed, is being continued by Forest personnel.

Infestations of southern pine beetle continue at low levels on the Shoal Creek and Talladega Districts of the Talladega National Forest. On the Oakmulgee and Tuscaloosa Districts of the Talladega National Forest, a survey in March, showed that approximately seven trees per M acres of host type were present. Removal of infested material and chemical control continues.

There has been little change in the beetle activity on private land in Jefferson, Walker, Blount, Shelby, Clarke, and St. Clair Counties. The infestations are at about the same level as they were during the fall and winter months. Salvage and/or direct control measures continue by some landowners.

GEORGIA

Southern pine beetle activity on the Tallulah and Chattooga Districts of the Chattahoochee National Forest has increased during the winter and spring of 1968. A survey of the area will be conducted by Forest Pest Control this summer. No control is being employed at present.

Activity on the Hitchiti Experimental Forest of the Oconee National Forest and the Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge is continuing at a moderate level. Removal of infested trees and direct chemical control measures are being used on both areas.

An efficient salvage program conducted by the Georgia Forestry Commission in the 199,600-acre four-county area of Elbert, Madison, Franklin and Hart Counties seems to have reduced the southern pine beetle infestations that were present during the fall and winter months.

SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE, (Cont'd)

LOUISIANA — The outbreak of southern pine beetle in central Louisiana now encompasses some half-million acres in LaSalle, Catahoula, Caldwell and Grant Parishes. A survey in March showed a decrease from 74.2 actively infested trees per M acres host type in November to 7.74 at present. Aggressive salvage and chemical control measures are continuing in order to minimize timber losses.

MISSISSIPPI — Infestations of southern pine beetle are continuing at a low level on the outbreak areas on the Homochitto National Forest and adjacent private land in Wilkinson and Amite Counties. Beetle infestations have been found mostly in single trees on the Homochitto National Forest with 1500 infested trees being cut and sprayed as of May 14 this year.

NORTH CAROLINA — Southern pine beetle activity continues throughout the Piedmont and Coastal Plains of the State and in Cherokee County in the mountains. Large spots and high brood densities in the eastern areas, indicate that increased activity can be expected during the coming season. (North Carolina Division of Forestry.)

SOUTH CAROLINA — Southern pine beetle outbreaks are continuing to cause heavy losses on the Tyger and Long Cane Districts of the Sumter National Forest. Moderate beetle activity is continuing on the Francis Marion National Forest. Increased damage is expected during the coming summer months. Chemical control and salvage programs have helped to reduce losses.

TEXAS — The number of infested spots found during operational flights on private land in east Texas, in May, is larger than at anytime during the last 3 years. As of mid-June, 395 southern pine beetle infested spots containing a total of 15,095 infested trees had been treated. A total of 1698 spots have been detected in 1968. A small infestation was detected in San Augustine County, six miles north of San Augustine. Surveys on National Forest land during February showed 19.99 infested trees per M acres of host type on the Angelina National Forest. The infestation levels per M acres of host type for other Districts in the National Forests in Texas were as follows: 8.54 for the Yellowpine District; 0.68 for the Big Thicket District; and 0.12 for the Tenaha District.

BLACK TURPENTINE BEETLE Dendroctonus terebrans Oliv.

ARKANSAS	Very low activity is reported from central Arkansas. Where feasible, salvage of infested trees is being accomplished. (Arkansas Forest Pest Reporter)
LOUISIANA	No unusual conditions are reported. Control is continuing on low, wet areas on the Kisatchie National Forest.
MISSISSIPPI	Chemical control is continuing on the Homochitto, Bienville, and Holly Springs National Forests.
TEXAS	The National Forests in Texas report 246 black turpentine beetle infested trees chemically treated as of March this year.
AREA	Activity for the black turpentine beetle in most of the Southern region is normal for this time of year in logging, stumping and naval stores areas.

IPS ENGRAVER BEETLES Ips spp.

ARKANSAS	"Minor activity in local areas resulted in some damage which is just showing up." (Arkansas Forest Pest Reporter).
TEXAS	"Numerous Ips-killed trees could be found in east Texas during the quarter even though this is contrary to findings of past years. The high populations in late 1967 undoubtedly account for the condition. A total of 748 Ips-infested trees was salvaged on U. S. Forest Service lands in the Trinity and Angelina Districts." (Forest Pest Activity in Texas.)
AREA	Ips activity for most of the South is normal for this season of the year.

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR, Malacosma disstria Hbn.

FLORIDA	Defoliation by the forest tent caterpillar this year was very much reduced over the area defoliated in 1967.

FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR (Cont'd)

LOUISIANA — Some colonies were observed this year in the vicinity of Krotz Springs and Chicot State Park on Tupelo gum. Defoliation was negligible.

Light defoliation was noted over a localized area on the Mermentau River in Jefferson Davis and Acadia Parishes.

PINE SAWFLIES Neodiprion spp.

ARKANSAS — Neodiprion taedae linearis eggs hatched two weeks later than normal. The level of infestation has increased this year as compared to 1967.

FLORIDA — The red-headed pine sawfly, Neodiprion lecontei populations scattered throughout Florida appear to be at a lower level than in 1967.

MISSISSIPPI — A sawfly, probably N. taedae linearis, was reported defoliating a 100-acre pine plantation in Tate County, Mississippi.

PALES WEEVIL, Hylobius pales (Hbst.)

NORTH CAROLINA — The pales weevil was reported as causing severe damage in young plantations in eastern North Carolina. (North Carolina Division of Forestry.)

SEED AND CONE INSECTS

ARKANSAS — Results of a three-year pilot project by the Division of Forest Pest Control, initiated in two shortleaf pine seed production areas on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, showed that aerial applications of Lindane and Sevin increased seed yields. Taking into consideration the value of high quality seed obtained from these areas, aerial spraying appears to be justifiable during good cone crop years.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS

FLORIDA — In west Florida, a web-spinning sawfly, Acantholyda spp. has been reported on sandpine, Pinua clausa (Chapm.) Vasey, causing moderate damage (Florida Forest Service).

MISCELLANEOUS INSECTS (Cont'd)

NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA

Two systemic insecticides, Thimet 10-G, and Cygon 267, are being pilot tested against the Nantucket pine tip moth, Rhyacionia frustrana (Comst.) on three separate seed orchards. The tree species involved are loblolly, Pinus taeda, shortleaf, P. echinata and Virginia pine, P. virginiana. The tree ages vary from 2 to 5 years old.

Final evaluation of the pilot test results are scheduled for September 1968.

VIRGINIA

A survey to determine the potential for defoliation by the eastern tent caterpillar, Malacosma americanum (f) conducted in November of 1967 indicated heavy damage could be expected in spots along the Blue Ridge Parkway between Fancy Gap and Roanoke, Virginia. As a result of this prediction, the areas of favored host type in the survey area, cherry, Prunus sp. and apple, Malus sp., were sprayed during April with malathion. Post spray examinations by park personnel revealed excellent control.

HAIL DAMAGE

ARKANSAS

On April 26, 1968, a severe hailstorm occurred near Camden, Arkansas. Trees were blown down, completely defoliated and limbs and leaders suffered heavy bark damage from the impact of the falling ice.

Approximately 60,000 acres of timber is expected to die within the next year and an additional 120,000 acres is less heavily damaged. At least 10,000 acres is either blowndown or very severely damaged (complete defoliation with 40 percent of the bark heavily damaged). Most of the area is on low sites and continuing rains and severe weather are hampering logging operations.

Salvage crews are being mobilized to quickly remove damaged timber before it deteriorates and also to lessen the potential for a bark beetle epidemic. An examination of the area on May 13 and 14, 1968 did not show any increased bark beetle activity. Surveillance of the area is continuing.

STATUS OF FOREST DISEASES

ANNOSUS ROOT ROT, Fomes annosus (Fr.) Cke.

GEORGIA — Personnel of the Georgia Forestry Commission, found two-year old slash pine infected with Fomes annosus in an Appling County plantation.

LOUISIANA — F. annosus was confirmed as the agent responsible for scattered eastern red cedar, Juniperus virginiana L., mortality at Cotile Lake Recreation Area. No pine species growing in the area were found infected with the disease.

COMANDRA BLISTER RUST, Cronartium comandrae Pk.

ARKANSAS — A survey to determine the distribution of comandra blister rust in shortleaf pine stands, up to ten years old, was conducted over the Ozark National Forest. The disease was originally discovered on the Buffalo Ranger District in 1962. Results of the survey revealed that C. comandrae was present on all of the Districts examined. Out of a possible 657 direct seeded or planted areas, 85 were randomly selected for use in the survey. Of the areas surveyed, 19 percent were found to be infected to some degree with comandra blister rust.

TENNESSEE — Observations of comandra blister rust, in eastern Tennessee this spring revealed the presence of the disease approximately 25 miles west of the Cumberland Plateau. Rust infection on pine was observed on the University of Tennessee's Highland Rim Experimental Forest. The Forest contains a pinetum with approximately 30 different species of pine. Comandra rust was observed on loblolly, shortleaf and pond pines, Pinus serotina Michx. The infection on pond pine apparently represents a new host record for C. comandrae. Also, high incidence of infection (25-60%) was noted in both planted and direct seeded six-year-old loblolly pine.

Forty 1/10 - acre permanent observation plots have been established throughout the infected area outlined by the 1967 comandra rust survey. Objectives of this evaluation are to determine C. comandrae rate of infection and associated mortality.

MISCELLANEOUS DISEASES

NEEDLE CAST, Hypoderma lethale Dearn.

AREA — Needle cast, infection has been heavy on slash and loblolly pine in many of the southeastern states.

DUTCH ELM DISEASE, Ceratocystis ulmi (Buism) C. Moreau

Some new instances of the Dutch Elm disease have been observed on American elm in the Atlanta, Georgia area.

BROWN SPOT NEEDLE BLIGHT, Scirrhia acicola (Dearn.) Siggers

MISSISSIPPI — Heavy discoloration and needle-fall was observed on loblolly pine, Pinus taeda L., along the Natchez Trace Parkway, between Kosciusko and Tupelo, Mississippi. The primary agent responsible for the condition was S. acicola.

More detailed information can be obtained by writing to The Forest Pest Control Division Field Offices listed below or to the Atlanta Office:

FIELD OFFICES	FOR STATES OF:
Asheville Office Amel E. Landgraf Zone Supervisor Post Office Box 5895 Asheville, North Carolina 28803 Phone: (704) 254-0961 Ext. 625	Florida Georgia Kentucky North Carolina South Carolina Tennessee Virginia
Alexandria Office William M. Ciesla Zone Supervisor 2500 Schreveport Highway Pineville, Louisiana 71360 Phone: (318) 445-6511, Ext. 311	Alabama Arkansas Louisiana Mississippi Oklahoma Texas

AREA OFFICE

Russell K. Smith
Assistant Area Director
Peachtree 7th Building
50 7th Street, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Phone: (404) 526-5189